SASKATCHEWAN WETLAND CONSERVATION CORPORATION

1991 - 1992
ANNUAL REPORT

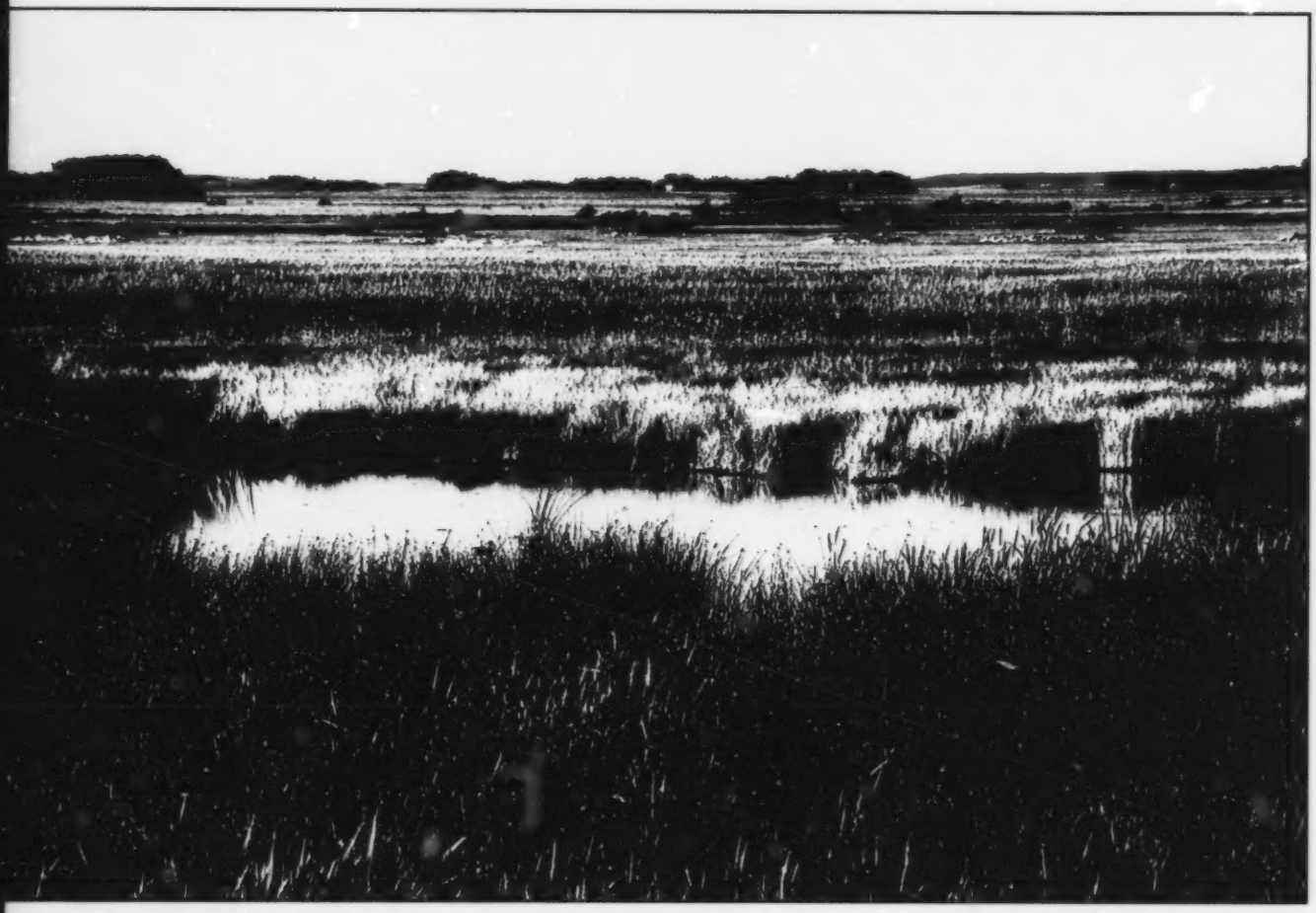
Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

92-06240/

CONTENTS

Letter of Transmittal	3
Chairman's Message	4
General Manager's Report	6
Board of Directors	7
SWCC Staff	8
NAWMP Programs in Saskatchewan	9
Prairie CARE	10
Large Marsh Program	11
Nest Basket Program	13
Crop Damage Prevention	13
Crop Damage Compensation	14
Program Development	15
Administration	15
Evaluation	16
Communications	17
Agricultural Services	18
Financial Statements	20
Future Plans	26



SWCC's CORPORATE MISSION

To lead and co-ordinate Saskatchewan's implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan through effective soil, water, and wetland conservation, for the benefit of people and wildlife.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Regina, Saskatchewan

To Her Honour
The Honourable
Sylvia O. Fedoruk,
O.C., S.O.M.
Lieutenant Governor
of the Province
of Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report of the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation for the period ending March 31, 1992, including financial statements for the year duly certified by the corporation's auditor, in a form approved by Treasury Board, all in accordance with the Crown Corporation Act of 1978.

Respectfully submitted,

Darrel Cunningham,
Minister Responsible for the
Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Douglas Cressman
Chairman of the Board

Saskatchewan
Wetland
Conservation
Corporation

Partnership is an organizational principle of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and an important factor in the success the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC) has enjoyed during its first two years of operation. Created in January of 1990 to co-ordinate provincial implementation of the NAWMP, the corporation is guided by a board of directors comprised of provincial and national wildlife habitat conservation organizations and provincial land-use agencies. As the agent of this partnership, SWCC performs a unique role in the province by linking agricultural and wildlife interests to produce an integrated land-use approach, involving soil, water, and wildlife habitat, to NAWMP programming in Saskatchewan.

In achieving its goals, SWCC works in partnership with federal government agencies, provincial agencies, and private organizations and businesses with both national and provincial interests.

The NAWMP is an international partnership among Canada, United States, and Mexico to reverse the decline in continental waterfowl populations. Because Saskatchewan is the primary nesting ground for one-quarter of the continent's ducks, this province is critical to the success of the North American plan. NAWMP partners have established a funding formula of 75 per cent United States, 10 per cent Government of Canada, 10 per cent Government of Saskatchewan, and five per cent non-government organizations.

Although the NAWMP is designed to benefit waterfowl and other migratory birds, Plan partners in this province recognize that declining waterfowl populations are a symptom of larger land-use problems characterized by decreasing wetland numbers and cultivation of marginal agricultural land. These factors also impact on the province's agricultural efficiency, resulting in about $500 million in lost productivity annually.

To help reverse these trends, NAWMP's Prairie CARE program offers incentives for farming practices that protect wetlands and develop or maintain protective cover on marginal farmland. This will help broaden the province's crop base, reducing soil degradation, and helping maintain groundwater quality and quantity. Waterfowl benefit from these land-use practices through an increase in the availability of nesting and brood-rearing habitat. This approach also allows the program to impact the maximum number of acres with available funds.

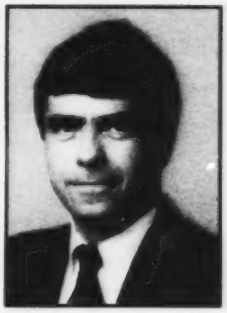
The NAWMP seeks to provide long-term security to Saskatchewan wetlands through the dedication of provincial Crown land providing important waterfowl and migratory bird habitats, the development of a wetland management policy for the province, and by encouraging changes in agricultural and other land-use programs and policies to reduce their impact on the habitat of waterfowl and other wildlife.

In addition to benefitting waterfowl, agriculture, and the environment generally, NAWMP helps diversify the provincial economy. It provides direct payments to landowners for adopting environmentally friendly farming activities; broadens the province's crop base by stimulating more bi-annual crops, winter cereals, and forage crops for the improved waterfowl nesting habitat they provide; offers incentives to improve pasture management to benefit both livestock and wildlife; and creates opportunities to capitalize on the province's wildlife-related tourism through increased hunting opportunities, bird watching, and ecological phenomenon tours, a new trend in tourism.

Dennis Sherratt, general manager of the SWCC, left the corporation in October to assume new responsibilities as director of western and northern regions for Wildlife Habitat Canada. Dave Phillips was appointed general manager and assumed his new duties October 14.

The partnership of land-use agencies and wildlife conservation organizations that provide direction to SWCC through its board of directors is setting an example for innovative programming, and is helping the corporation lead the province in an integrated approach to resource management. This approach will benefit all of Saskatchewan.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



Dave Phillips
General Manager

Saskatchewan
Wetland
Conservation
Corporation

I am pleased to report that the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC) has taken several important steps during 1991-2 toward fulfilling its roles in co-ordinating Saskatchewan activities under the NAWMP, establishing long-term security for the province's wetlands, and helping create a healthier provincial landscape.

During the year, $12,324,397 was contributed by partners for Saskatchewan's North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) programming. Through NAWMP, 143,814 acres are currently under securement and are in various stages of development and management. In addition, 2,000 nest baskets have been placed at small wetlands in the Redvers and the Quill Lakes/Touchwood/Beaver Hills area. Waterfowl crop damage prevention and compensation activities are developing in tandem with NAWMP program delivery in Saskatchewan.

A concerted effort is being made by SWCC to ensure long-term security of the province's wetlands. The corporation is co-ordinating the efforts of a multi-agency working group to develop a provincial wetland policy proposal. This group includes representatives from Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Saskatchewan Environment and Public Safety, Saskatchewan Natural Resources, Saskatchewan Rural Development, and Saskatchewan Water Corporation. A background discussion paper has been circulated to key interest groups for comment with public review planned for the coming year.

Another important step in providing long-term wetland security was made February 12 when a lease agreement was signed with Saskatchewan Rural Development providing for the future transfer of 36,166 acres of Crown land to the corporation. When complete, this will dedicate important provincial lands associated with the Quill Lakes and Thunder Creek/Galloway Bay projects to the NAWMP.

The corporation has also made progress in its internal development. A corporate strategy developed by staff and approved by the board of directors outlines the corporation's goals and objectives in each staff department for the next three years. In keeping with this strategy, expertise was added to the corporation in the areas of agricultural policy and land management through the secondment of agrologists from Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food and the Agriculture Development Fund. Due to a restructuring of NAWMP program delivery in 1991, responsibility for support services in the Humboldt, Saskatoon, and Wadena offices was transferred from SWCC to Ducks Unlimited Canada. SWCC and NAWMP partners in Saskatchewan have also started the process of broadening the land management programs to provide benefits to more non-game species, including the development of habitat for some endangered species.

Building upon initiatives launched in 1991 and continuing to establish new partnerships to help achieve provincial NAWMP objectives will be priorities for SWCC in the coming year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation Board of Directors are: (Back row L-R) Douglas Chekay, Ed Begin, Jim Jowsey, Kathy Kaminski, Betty Collins, Roxanne Schindel, Wilma Shoemaker, Al Veroba, Pat Nelson, Gerald McKeating. (Front row) Dennis Webster, Rod Fowler, Douglas Cressman, David Nederhoff, David Neave, Dennis Sherratt.

Douglas Cressman (Chairman), Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources

Douglas Chekay (Vice-Chairman), Provincial Manager, Ducks Unlimited Canada

Ed Begin, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

Betty Collins, Director, Strategic Planning Branch, Saskatchewan Environment and Public Safety

Rod Fowler, National Operations Manager, Ducks Unlimited Canada

Dr. Jim Jowsey, Saskatchewan Natural History Society

Kathy Kaminski, Member at Large

Gerald McKeating, Director, Western and Northern Region, Canadian Wildlife Service

David Nederhoff, Director, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

Pat Nelson, Saskatoon Regional Director, Saskatchewan Natural Resources

Roxanne Schindel, Member at Large

Dennis Sherratt/David Neave, Wildlife Habitat Canada

Wilma Shoemaker, Member at Large

Al Veroba, Vice-President of Operations, Saskatchewan Water Corporation

Dennis Webster, Special Projects, Saskatchewan Rural Development

SWCC STAFF

Staff members are:
(Back row L-R) Dave Phillips, Darcee Sazynski, Graham Dorn, Linda McKay, Gordon Demoskoff, Sharon Rodenbush, Dave Duncan.
(Front row) Rick Bates, Greg Riemer.

Dave Phillips, General Manager

Rick Bates, Manager, Communications

Gordon Demoskoff, Manager, Program Development

Graham Dorn, Wetland Policy Analyst

David Duncan, Manager, Biological Services

Linda McKay, Manager, Financial Services

Don McKinnon, Evaluation Biologist, Wadena

Greg Riemer, Manager, Agricultural Programs

Sharon Rodenbush, Communications Officer

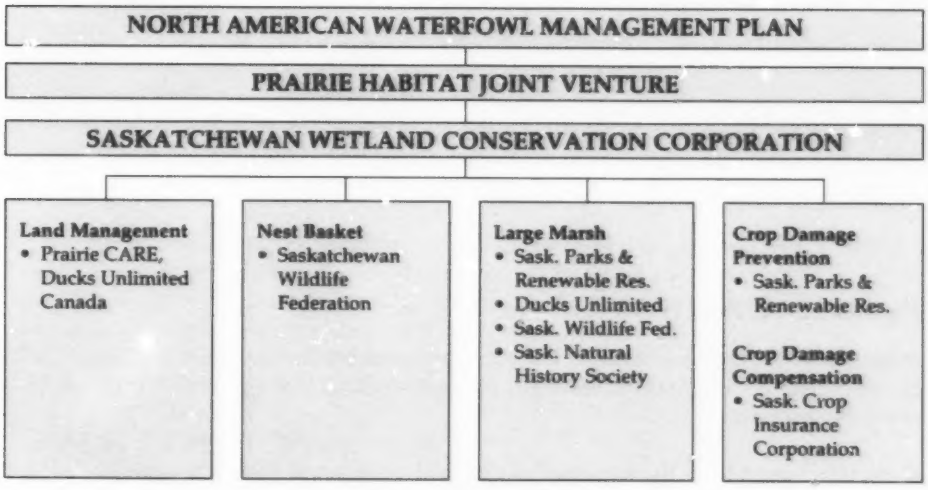
Darcee Sazynski, Office Administrator

NAWMP PROGRAMS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Again this year waterfowl have found inadequate breeding habitat due to the scarcity of wetlands and the conversion of marginal land to agricultural uses. Estimates show that 40 per cent of Saskatchewan's wetlands have been lost and an estimated 50 per cent of the remaining wetland basins are being impacted by human activities.

Total duck breeding populations in the province are at 42 per cent of the Saskatchewan NAWMP goal of 10 million, while the breeding mallard population is at 34 per cent of the Saskatchewan goal of three million.

Progress toward reversing these situations was made through each of the following program areas: Prairie CARE, Large Marsh, Nest Baskets, and Crop Damage Prevention and Compensation.


NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN
PRAIRIE HABITAT JOINT VENTURE
SASKATCHEWAN WETLAND CONSERVATION CORPORATION
Land Management
• Prairie CARE, Ducks Unlimited Canada
Nest Basket
• Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
Large Marsh
• Sask. Parks & Renewable Res.
• Ducks Unlimited
• Sask. Wildlife Fed.
• Sask. Natural History Society
Crop Damage Prevention
• Sask. Parks & Renewable Res.
Crop Damage Compensation
• Sask. Crop Insurance Corporation

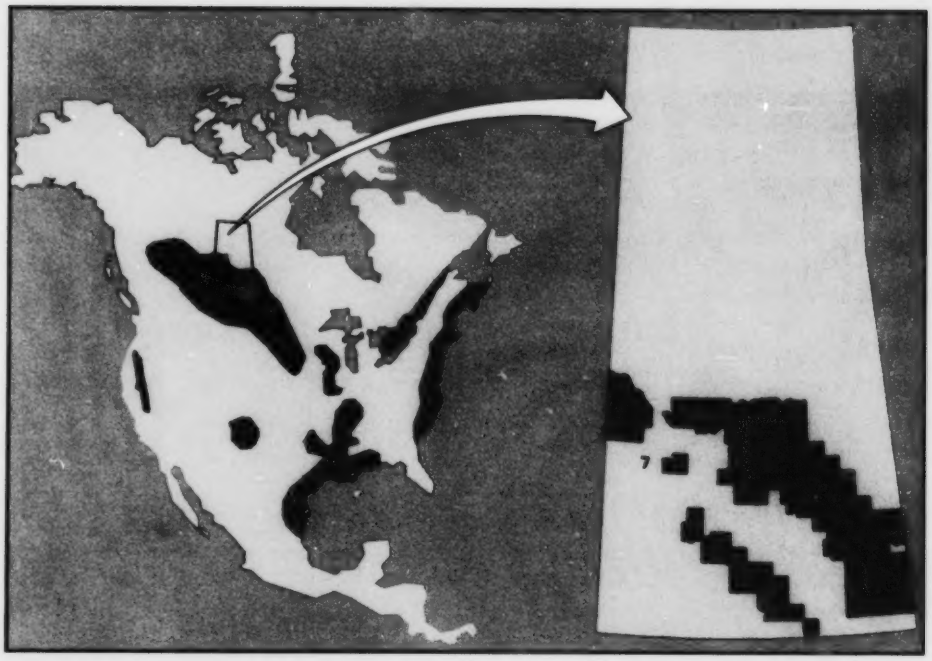
1991-92 Contributions in Saskatchewan to NAWMP

Canadian Wildlife Service	1,882,682
Ducks Unlimited Canada	910,286
Ducks Unlimited Inc.	3,389,680
Province of Saskatchewan	563,250
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation	16,813*
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	4,329,954
U.S. State Funds	1,181,300
Wildlife Habitat Canada	50,432
Total:	12,324,397

**Contributions in kind.*

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan's land management programs in Saskatchewan focus on seven key areas of the province and primarily on localized zones in these areas that have the very best small wetland complexes.

1 Moose Mountain Uplands
2 Pheasant Hills
3 Quill Lakes/Touchwood/ Beaver Hills
4 Allan/Tiger/Minichinas Hills
5 Thickwood Hills
6 Cut Knife Uplands
7 Missouri Coteau



Prairie CARE

Establishing dense nesting cover is a major activity of the Prairie CARE program.

During 1991-92, Ducks Unlimited Canada completed the first full year of Prairie CARE program delivery in all seven North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) key program areas.

NAWMP expenditures through the Prairie CARE program in Saskatchewan totalled $8.7 million and affected land use on 87,560 acres through three main components: 1) soil and water conservation demonstrations, 2) modified agricultural land-use agreements, and 3) land purchase and lease for use by wildlife.

The Prairie CARE demonstration programs during 1991 - 92 impacted 55,924 acres through 55 projects involving 610 farmers. The demonstration component was also expanded to include a five-year winter wheat extension program.

The second major Prairie CARE program area is modified agricultural land use, which includes delayed hay cut, conversion and delayed hay cut, planned grazing systems, underseed fallow, and interpothole habitat restoration. Conversion with delayed hay cut is more popular than straight delayed hay cut because of the conversion assistance provided.

Fall crops seeded directly into standing stubble, such as this winter wheat, offer waterfowl protective cover during the critical nesting period between May and July 15th.

Planned grazing systems to improve range conditions for livestock and wildlife have been developed mainly in the Missouri Coteau area of southwestern Saskatchewan. In all, through the NAWMP, Ducks Unlimited Canada is developing grazing systems on 115,000 acres in partnership with Saskatchewan Rural Development, 30,000 acres in partnership with PFRA, and 10,000 acres in partnership with grazing co-operatives.

Planned grazing systems in the Mount Hope-Prairie Rose PFRA pasture project are developed and operating, while the Monet PFRA pasture project is in the final approval stages for implementation. In addition, negotiations are underway on the Beechy, Matador, and Old Wives Lake provincial community pastures and the King George Grazing Co-operative. Other grazing systems have been negotiated with private landowners and Crown lessees.

The development of dense nesting cover on cultivated lands that are either purchased or leased was a major activity during this period. Through Ducks Unlimited Canada, 7,657 acres were planted to permanent grass cover, including 3,100 acres planted to native grass species. Native species are generally preferred for use on purchased lands because of their extended life span.

During the year, land management program delivery shifted to localized areas containing the very best small wetland complexes in each of the seven key program areas. These areas, known as unit landscapes, are characterized by high wetland density, homogeneous land use, and vary in size from one to 30 townships.

Large Marsh Program

Saskatchewan's Large Marsh Program protects and enhances some of the province's larger wetlands (greater than 500 acres).

Large wetlands, especially those over 500 acres in size, are important for waterfowl staging, moulting, and production.

During 1991, Ducks Unlimited Canada continued work on two large marshes, the Sucker Lakes Complex and Thunder Creek Marshes.

The Sucker Lake Complex, located 50 kilometres northwest of Prince Albert, included work consisting of 10 wetland segments encompassing 2,252 wetland and 771 upland acres at a cost of $542,000. The completed engineering design connects wetlands by conveyance ditches and control structures for water storage, flood protection, and marsh management to enhance waterfowl habitat. This NAWMP project was completed in 1991.

Work on the Thunder Creek Marshes, located approximately 90 kilometres northwest of Moose Jaw, involved conveyance ditching, and control structure installation on six wetlands. During 1991, these developments affected 2,754 acres at a cost of $1.52 million. When complete, the project will encompass 11,800 acres of wetland habitat and 3,300

Through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, waterfowl crop damage compensation payments have increased from a maximum of 50 per cent to a maximum of 80 per cent, and crop damage prevention measures are established in conjunction with NAWMP projects.

upland acres. This project is an extension to the Riverhurst Irrigation Project, an agricultural development under the Canada-Saskatchewan Subsidiary Agreement on Irrigation Based Economic Development.

The Sucker Lake Complex and Thunder Creek project will enhance waterfowl production, staging, and moulting habitat in the north and south central areas of Saskatchewan. These projects will also provide important habitat for other migratory birds including geese, cranes, swans, and shorebirds.

Nest Basket Program

Through the Nest Basket Program individuals can sponsor the placement of hand-made duck nests in small wetlands. Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation volunteers place the baskets in small wetlands after a handshake agreement is made with the landowner to not drain, cultivate, or burn the wetland.

During 1991, 1,500 nest baskets in the Quill Lakes area were re-stocked with nesting materials. Over 100 volunteers from the Foam Lake, Whitesand, Willowbrook, Beaver Hills, Parkland, and Touchwood Hills Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation branches placed nest baskets and were joined by a group of school children from Willowbrook in replacing some damaged baskets.

In addition, steel canopy bands were placed on 50 baskets in an experiment to improve their use by ducks. The steel band offers added security from predators for nesting mallard hens.

Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention

The Federal/Provincial Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Agreement, which includes the operation of feeding stations and of lure crops for waterfowl, is funded on a 50:50 basis by the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan. Incremental costs associated with crop damage prevention activities resulting from NAWMP programming are also included under this agreement.

Lure crops and feeding stations are operated near large staging marshes to reduce damage by geese, ducks, or sandhill cranes. In 1991-2, costs for incremental crop damage prevention measures related to NAWMP totalled $16,852 for lure crops and feeding stations in key program areas.

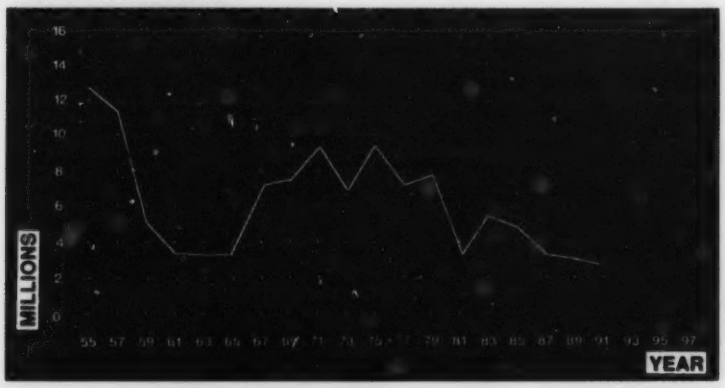
Drought, coupled with low waterfowl populations and an early harvest, minimized crop damage prevention costs in 1991-92.

Waterfowl Crop Damage Compensation

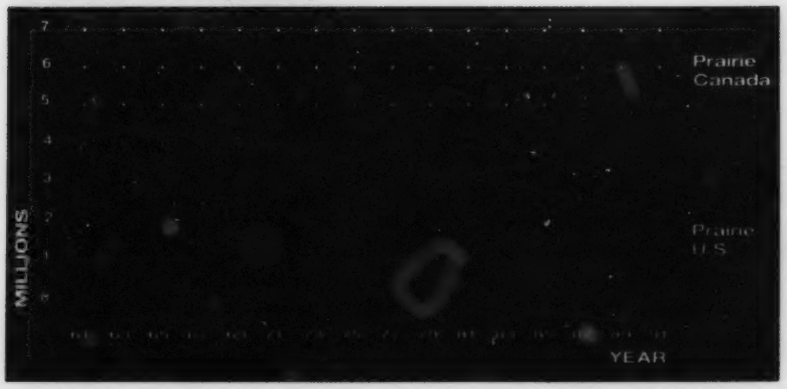
During 1991-2, $59,000 in incremental expenditures on crop damage compensation relating to the NAWMP were made. The dry weather experienced during the fall of 1991 allowed swathed crops to be harvested quickly, thereby reducing the opportunity for waterfowl damage to occur.

This was the second year that the federal/provincial agreement offered compensation rates for waterfowl crop damage compensation of up to 80 per cent of assessed crop loss.

BREEDING DABBLER DUCK POPULATIONS
Southern Saskatchewan



MAY POND NUMBERS (millions)



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The major thrust of programming during 1991 focused on Prairie CARE land management options delivered by Ducks Unlimited Canada on behalf of all North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) partners. Under a yearly work plan between the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada and the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC), $700,000 in federal funds were provided to Ducks Unlimited for NAWMP land management program activities.

Ninety per cent of all whooping cranes use wetlands when migrating through Saskatchewan.

A revised format for submission of project proposals to United States funding sources was developed, with twelve 1992 proposals submitted for consideration from Saskatchewan. Proposals included land management programming in seven key areas in addition to large marsh development activities. NAWMP programming is expanding to include benefits to wildlife other than waterfowl, and this multi-species approach will be evident in new proposals developed in 1992 for implementation in 1993.

Preliminary steps were taken to develop a provincial wetland policy in Saskatchewan, as SWCC spearheaded the efforts of an inter-agency working group to describe wetland functions and the causes of wetland loss.

With most activities of the Prairie Pothole Project in the RM of Antler #61 completed, the Redvers project office was closed on December 31, 1991. The land management leases signed with co-operating landowners remain in effect and are administered by the SWCC.

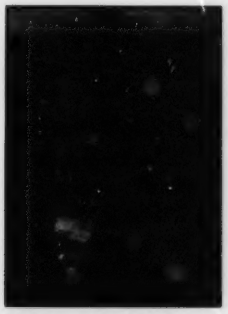
Ensuring adequate crop damage prevention measures and compensation payments are available and work together with NAWMP activities in Saskatchewan is an integral part of the Saskatchewan NAWMP strategy. The Crop Damage Prevention and the Crop Damage Compensation programs are delivered in the province by Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, respectively.

The co-operative spirit exhibited by the many agencies and organizations involved in NAWMP activities, and the interest shown in the program by potential new partner agencies, points to another exciting year in 1992-93.

ADMINISTRATION

Administration staff helped design and implement new internal policies and procedures to assist in the efficient operation of the corporation. A restructuring of program delivery in NAWMP project areas transferred the responsibility for support services in the Humboldt, Saskatoon, and Wadena offices from SWCC to Ducks Unlimited Canada during the year.

EVALUATION



Radio transmitter devices, fastened to mallard hens, allowed biologists to track the birds and evaluate nesting habitats in the Ebenezer research project area.

SWCC evaluation staff, dragging a cable between two ATV's, search for duck nests to determine nest density and hatching success.

An evaluation study of habitat use by ducks, conducted by SWCC as part of the prairie-wide biological assessment program of the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, tested techniques planned to be used in the future to assess duck use of NAWMP-managed land.

One objective of the study was to test a method of catching wild female mallards by using cap ive female ducks in decoy traps. Sixty-one wild female mallards were captured using this method, demonstrating its practicality for capturing the large numbers of birds needed for future assessment. A second objective was to evaluate three different methods of radio transmitter attachment. Results showed that a new method of transmitter attachment — a necklace — was superior to that of the standard harness or glue methods. These results will be incorporated into the final design of the assessment program, which will examine mallard nesting habits.

Preliminary information gathered at Ebenezer (north of Yorkton) in 1991 also revealed that a substantial number of mallard hens nest in bushy vegetation, such as willows. Subsequent studies of this nature will assist in guiding the future direction of NAWMP land management programs in Saskatchewan.

A separate biological evaluation study, conducted in conjunction with the Canadian Wildlife Service at Redvers, Saskatchewan, examined the ability of hens nesting within fenced dense nesting cover plots to exit the fences with their broods. Mallard hens nesting inside the fences and their newly hatched ducklings were captured and marked with radio transmitters. Results of this study showed that some hens and broods have difficulty passing through the fences to water. This information will be used to re-examine the cost-effectiveness of the electric predator fence management technique.

As the final stage in completing the Prairie Pothole Project evaluations, data collected between 1987-90 on waterfowl habitat and populations were analyzed during 1991. Final reports on this project will be forthcoming in 1992-93.

COMMUNICATIONS

During 1991 Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC) communications completed the basic research, planning, and material production needed to deliver an efficient and effective program in support of NAWMP implementation.

Communications activities included three major elements. First, an internal communications program was initiated to keep provincial partner agencies, the provincial government, and regional, national, and international partners in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) informed of progress toward Plan objectives in Saskatchewan. Specific components of this program included the *Saskatchewan Wetlander* newsletter, progress reports, other publications, and presentations to special interest groups.

The loss of Saskatchewan wetlands also threatens some perennial wildflowers, such as the western blue flag.

A second element in SWCC's communications was satisfying immediate public relations needs of the corporation and NAWMP programs in the province. Specific products included development of publications on the SWCC nest basket program, trade show attendance, special events, the production of several slide presentations, and participation in a television special on wildlife habitat and NAWMP programs to be aired in 1992. In the final quarter, SWCC communications completed a mailing list of landowners in NAWMP priority areas and developed a comprehensive distribution system for NAWMP materials in the province and for partners outside Saskatchewan.

A third element of the 1991 program involved soliciting landowner participation in Prairie CARE. This was accomplished through paid advertising, direct mail, and special events targeted at landowners in the priority NAWMP areas. Following a restructuring of program delivery in October, responsibility for soliciting landowner participation in Prairie CARE was assumed by Ducks Unlimited Canada. SWCC communication activities are shifting to focus primarily on developing support for integrated (soil, water, and wildlife habitat) land-use practices, programs, and policies in Saskatchewan. Activities toward this objective have included cost-sharing the production of technical land management materials with agricultural agencies, and development of a communications strategy to achieve objectives related to integrated land-use programs and policies. Staff are exploring the feasibility of establishing an extension program to help achieve integrated land-use communications objectives among target markets at local and regional levels. Development of this initiative will continue in 1992.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

During the year, the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC) established an agricultural services component with a broad range of responsibilities. Substantial progress was made toward the transfer of Crown lands, agricultural policy analysis, and in the design of a socio-economic evaluation of NAWMP programs in Saskatchewan.

On February 12, 1992 a lease agreement was signed with Saskatchewan Rural Development to provide for the transfer of 16,835 acres of vacant Crown land to the corporation. Much of the land is important habitat for threatened and endangered shorebirds, as well as for waterfowl. The agreement also includes an option to purchase 19,331 additional acres of leased land pending agreement with the current lessees. Lessees were notified of their opportunities in regard to future management of these lands. Surveys needed to support the transfer of lands are scheduled to begin in 1992-93.

This first land transfer agreement formalizes a process under which the province can continue to meet its commitment of Crown land to the NAWMP. Fifty per cent of the province's commitment to the NAWMP in Saskatchewan is expected to be met in the value of Crown lands dedicated to the program over the life of the Plan.

Studies were designed to evaluate the effect of NAWMP expenditures on agricultural subsidies. This project will be carried out in 1992-93. SWCC also completed arrangements and design for a socio-economic evaluation of the NAWMP land programs by contracting agricultural economists at the University of Saskatchewan to complete the project in 1992-93. Partial funding for this evaluation was obtained through Wildlife Habitat Canada.

Agricultural services staff completed an inventory and review of the effects of agricultural policies on wetland habitat. This review was considered by the SWCC Board of Directors and will guide the corporation's future work to encourage new policy options of benefit to soil, water, and wetland conservation.

Sustainable land-use programs that conserve soil, water, and wildlife habitat help maintain the foundations of the province's agricultural and wildlife-related industries.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan:

We have audited the statement of financial position of Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation as at March 31, 1992 and the statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the corporation as at March 31, 1992 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles described in Note 2.

Price Waterhouse

Chartered Accountants

April 29, 1992
Regina, Saskatchewan

SASKATCHEWAN WETLAND CONSERVATION CORPORATION

Statement of Financial Position

	March 31 1992	1991
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	$ 664,454	$ 767,533
Accounts receivable	70,157	22,875
Short term investments	-	50,000
Prepaid expenses	1,773	3,710
Inventory of fencing materials	15,921	16,846
	752,305	860,964
Capital assets, at cost (Note 2)	142,264	135,640
Less: Accumulated depreciation	55,399	24,497
	86,865	111,143
	$ 839,170	$ 972,107
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	$ 51,311	$ 151,995
Investment in capital assets	86,865	111,143
Funds available for future operations	700,994	708,969
	$ 839,170	$ 972,107

Approved by the Board _____ Director _____ Director

SASKATCHEWAN WETLAND CONSERVATION CORPORATION

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and Funds Available for Future Operations

	Year ended March 31 1992	Three months ended March 31 1991
Revenue		
Funding contributions		
Environmental Protection Fund	$ 400,000	$ 187,500
Canadian Wildlife Service	1,168,800	748,800
Wildlife Habitat Canada	10,000	-
	1,578,800	936,300
Other income	63,215	30,440
	1,642,015	966,740
Expenditures		
Biological evaluation	277,139	72,999
Communication	224,812	116,968
Capital asset acquisitions	7,292	79,812
Land management	54,151	64,487
Payments to delivering partners	700,000	390,000
Provincial program co-ordination	386,596	130,493
	1,649,990	854,759
Revenues over (under) expenditures	(7,975)	111,981
Funds available for future operations at beginning of period	708,969	596,988
Funds available for future operations at end of period	$ 700,994	$ 708,969

SASKATCHEWAN WETLAND CONSERVATION CORPORATION

Statement of Changes in Financial Position — Page 3

	Year ended March 31 1992	Three months ended March 31 1991
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities		
Excess of revenues over expenditures for the period	$ (7,975)	$ 111,981
Changes in non-cash operating items		
Accounts receivable	(47,282)	6,894
Prepaid expenses	1,937	(2,367)
Inventory	925	3,801
Accounts payable	(100,684)	(295,481)
Decrease in cash during the period	(153,079)	(175,172)
Cash, beginning of period	817,533	992,705
Cash, end of period	$ 664,454	$ 817,533
Cash comprised of		
Cash	$ 664,454	$ 767,533
Short term investments	-	50,000
	$ 664,454	$ 817,533

1. Incorporation of Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation

Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation was incorporated by Order-in-council December 21, 1989 under the Crown Corporations Act, 1978. The corporation's mandate under the incorporating Order-in-council is to co-ordinate the delivery of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in Saskatchewan. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan was formally adopted on May 14, 1986 by the Federal Governments of Canada and the United States as a plan for conservation of internationally shared waterfowl resources.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

This summary of significant accounting policies provides a description of the accounting methods and practices that have been used in the preparation of these financial statements.

General principles
The corporation has adopted the accrual basis of accounting.

Inventories
Inventories are carried at the lower of cost and estimated market value. Donated inventories are recorded as income in the period received and are valued at the estimated fair market value.

Capital assets
Capital asset acquisitions are expensed during the year of purchase. To maintain accountability for these capital assets, the cost, net of a charge for depreciation, is reflected on the statement of financial position as an asset with an offsetting equity balance. Charges for depreciation are based on the declining-balance method at rates ranging from 20% to 30%.

3. Related party transactions

Included in these financial statements are various revenue and expenditure amounts resulting from routine operating transactions conducted at prevailing market prices with various Saskatchewan Crown-controlled departments, agencies, and corporations with which the corporation is related.

Account balances resulting from these transactions are included in the statement of financial position and are settled on normal trade terms. Other accounts due to and from related parties and the terms of settlement are described separately in these financial statements and the notes thereto.

4. Reporting entity

Under the authority of Order-in-council No. 29/90 dated January 10, 1990, Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation holds responsibility to co-ordinate or account for the collection and disbursement of monies related to programs or activities undertaken in Saskatchewan pursuant to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. These financial statements report only those monies designated to be collected and distributed through the accounts of the corporation.

5. Change in fiscal year end

In accordance with Order-in-council No. 176/91 dated March 6, 1991 the company changed its fiscal year end from December 31 to March 31 of each year. These financial statements report the operations of the corporation for the year ended March 31, 1992. The comparative figures presented in these financial statements report the operations for the three month period from January 1, 1991 to March 31, 1991.

6. Contingent liability

Revenues received from the Canadian Wildlife Service and Wildlife Habitat Canada are subject to funding agreements. The corporation could be required to reimburse these funding sources for amounts unapplied to eligible expenditures.

7. Other income

Other income is comprised as follows:

	1992	1991
Interest earned	$ 53,098	$ 26,926
Miscellaneous revenues	10,117	3,514
	$ 63,215	$ 30,440

FUTURE PLANS

In the coming year, overall NAWMP land management and large marsh activities in the province will entail an $11.2 million program continuing to focus in the seven key program areas identified in the *North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Saskatchewan Implementation Strategy*.

The Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation will complete arrangements for the transfer of Crown lands in support of the Quill Lakes and Thunder Creek/Galloway Bay projects.

The corporation is participating in the development of a NAWMP National Reporting System (NRS). NRS will create a standardized national information management system. The system will track contributions, expenditures, and accomplishments of partners participating in the plan.

Surveys of the attitudes and awareness of targeted audiences about soil, water, and wildlife habitat conservation issues relevant to the NAWMP will be completed to refine communications and adjust ongoing NAWMP implementation. New and existing SWCC/NAWMP programs will be supported with communications work, a three-year sustainable agriculture communications plan will be completed and synchronized with SWCC policy initiatives, and the socio-economic evaluation of landowner acceptance of conservation farming techniques will be completed.

During 1992-93, biological evaluation activities will be broadened to monitor the response of wildlife species other than waterfowl to land management programs. SWCC will continue to evaluate waterfowl productivity on treated lands and will complete a socio-economic assessment of the effects of NAWMP expenditures on landowners, local communities, and the province. The results of the biological and the socio-economic assessment will be used to adjust and refine future programming.

Consultations in support of a provincial policy for the management of wetlands in Saskatchewan will be carried out during 1992. SWCC will also continue to provide leadership to prairie-wide agricultural policy adjustment efforts co-ordinated through the NAWMP's Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Advisory Board.

SWCC will work closely with Saskatchewan agricultural agencies, producers' organizations, and program partners to promote programs and policies that encourage sustainable use of our soil and water resources, and maintain the flora and fauna that depend on them.

A hen mallard and her two-week old ducklings.